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## Shah's Connections in U.S. Detailed

The lengthy, incestuous and perhaps illegal relationship between the former shah of Iran and top policymakers in Washington may finally get the long overdue official scrutiny it deserves.

Rep. George Hansen—the maverick Idaho Republican who went to Tehran twice to negotiate for release of the American hostages—has conducted his own investigation of the sweetheart relationships the shah developed with Washington's high and mighty.

Working with a staff of three investigators, the congressman has detailed his findings in secret reports to two House committees, Intelligence and Banking, and has demanded a full-scale inquiry.

Hansen's conclusions tend to confirm stories I have been reporting since 1974. Numerous high officials—including former president Nixon, former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and William Rogers, and former CIA director Richard Helms—slavishly kowtowed to the shah, actively helped build Iran into a military power and stood by while the royal dictator pushed oil prices into the stratosphere.

The favors they received, in turn, from the occupant of the Peacock Throne came perilously close to bribery in some cases.

Hansen is convinced that the hearings he calls for would not only inform the American public of the misguided policies that put the United States into its present humiliating predicament in Iran, but also would probably secure the release of the hostages. Indeed, he claims to have evidence that prompt congressional hearings could have brought the hostages home last November.

The two committee chairmen Hansen

reported to—Reps. Edward Boland (D-Mass.) and Henry Reuss (D-Wis.)—are tough-minded and independent enough to pursue the requested inquiries no matter how high the embarrassment reaches. And Hansen's evidence suggests that it reaches to the top levels of Washington officialdom.

The shah's affinity for former secretaries of state is detailed in several parts of Hansen's reports. Hansen quotes at length from my column of Dec. 10, 1979, charging that Kissinger could have dissuaded the shah from leading the ruinous oil price rise in 1973, but "held back to accommodate the shah—an incredible favor worth untold billions" to the monarch. Hansen also describes how Kissinger and his current employer, Chase Manhattan Bank Chairman David Rockefeller, pressured President Carter to let the shah into this country last October despite clear warnings that American personnel in Tehran might be taken hostage as a result.

Some of Hansen's more serious revelations concern Kissinger's predecessor, Rogers. For example:

- Within three months after he resigned from office, Rogers turned up as director of the shah's Pahlavi Foundation and appeared as "the attorney of record for the shah's relatives and his bank, the Bank of Omran." There was at the time, Hansen notes, a statute that made it a criminal offense to act, within one year of leaving the government, "on behalf of anyone other than the United States in any matter which was within one's jurisdiction as a government officer." Rogers "appears to have forgotten the conflict statute," Hansen observed.

- According to officials of the Pahlavi Foundation, whose only asset in this

country was an office building on Fifth Avenue in New York, Rogers and his law firm were paid \$35,000 a month for legal services—a total of more than \$1 million, Hansen reports. "A legitimate question arises of whether the foundation was merely a conduit to pay the legal fees for services of the Rogers firm to members of the royal family," Hansen concluded. Furthermore, Hansen notes, "I can find no evidence that either Mr. Rogers or his firm registered as agents for a foreign government" while representing the Pahlavi Foundation and the shah, as required by law.

- Finally, Hansen charges that Rogers may have played "a major part in a series of events" that eventually led to the fateful decision to admit the shah to the United States.

I have some additional evidence that I've voluntarily shared with Hansen. In June 1974, I was tracking down rumors that the shah had given large sums of money to the Nixon reelection campaign. Out of nowhere, Rogers called me and categorically denied the story.

Then Rogers' law firm followed up with a telegram stating the firm had been "retained by the embassy of Iran" to communicate with me on the Nixon-shah story. This, too, was less than a year after Rogers' departure from government in September 1973.

My associates Joe Spear and Gary Cohn called Rogers' office three times for comment on Hansen's charges, but were told he was too busy to talk. On request, they put their inquiries in writing, but had received no response by the time I went to press. In the past, Rogers denied any conflict of interest, insisting that he handled only "real estate work" for the shah's foundation.